



# EMBASSY UPDATES

*A Newsletter for U.S. Citizens in El Salvador*

Summer 2021



## **U.S. Embassy San Salvador**

American Citizen Services Unit

Monday - Thursday, 7:30 am - 11:30 am

Friday, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Email: [ACSSanSal@state.gov](mailto:ACSSanSal@state.gov)

## RENEW YOUR U.S. ADULT PASSPORT THROUGH CARGO EXPRESO

The Embassy is offering adult passport renewal by mail through a local courier service, Cargo Expreso, to qualified applicants. We encourage all qualified applicants to use this service and avoid long delays in scheduling an appointment and inconvenient travel to the Embassy.



You **MUST** meet the following criteria to qualify for this method:

- Your current U.S. passport book/card is in your possession;
- You were at least 16 years old when your most recent U.S. passport book/card was issued (10-year validity passport);
- If expired, your most recent U.S. passport book/card has not been expired for more than 5 years;
- Your current U.S. passport was issued under your current legal name (no name changes);
- You can wait up to 3 weeks to receive your new passport (no emergency travel).

To learn more on how to apply through Cargo Expreso, please visit the following link: [Adult Passport Renewal by Mail Using Cargo Expreso's Courier Service](#)



## RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES WITH YOUR EXPIRED U.S. PASSPORT

Effective May 25, 2021. If you are overseas and your U.S. passport expired on or after **January 1, 2020**, you may be able to use your expired passport to return directly to the United States until **December 31, 2021**.



You qualify for this exception if all of the following are true:

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are currently abroad seeking direct return to the United States.
- You are flying directly to the United States, a United States territory, or have only short-term transit ("connecting flights") through a foreign country on your direct return to the United States or to a United States Territory.
- Your expired passport was originally valid for 10 years. Or, if you were 15 years of age or younger when the passport was issued, your expired passport was valid for 5 years.
- Your expired passport is undamaged.
- Your expired passport is unaltered.
- Your expired passport is in your possession.

For more information please visit our website: <http://bit.ly/RenewUSpassport>

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

All airline passengers to the United States ages two and older must provide a negative COVID-19 viral test (RT-PCR or antigen test) taken **within three calendar days of travel**. Alternatively, travelers to the U.S. may provide documentation of a positive COVID-19 test within the previous 90 days and a letter from a licensed health care provider of having recovered from COVID-19 in the 90 days preceding travel.

***Please note that even if you are fully vaccinated, CDC requires passengers to show a negative test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding an international flight to the United States.***



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO EL SALVADOR



The government of El Salvador is requiring all airlines to obtain from their international passengers a printed original negative Real Time-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result issued within 72 hours of departure prior to allowing them to board. (Note: the 72 hours is counted from the date and time of the reception of the test result, NOT from the time a sample is collected, and the report must state that the test is RT-PCR).

Passengers who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination course at least two weeks prior to travel will no longer be required to present a negative RT-PCR test for entry but can present proof of vaccination instead.

**Please verify with your airline that they have implemented this change and their specific docu-**

For information on travel requirements and local laboratories visit our website:

<https://sv.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>



## TO REMEMBER

### ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYEMENTS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency responsible for managing all details of the Economic Impact Payments process. The method by which the IRS may send your Payment coincides with the one used for your tax return and/or prior Payment rounds, which may be through direct deposit or by mail to the Embassy if the address IRS has on file is a Salvadoran address. If you have received a letter from the IRS stating that your check has been mailed to El Salvador, **keep in mind that it can take over 90 days or more to arrive at the Embassy**, If you have received

prior checks through the embassy or have been informed your latest check will be sent that way, you can register with the embassy to be notified by email when the check arrives by filling out this [FORM](#). We will not be able to respond to individual inquiries about each check, but you can rest assured you will be informed when a payment for you arrives at the Unit.

For more information on eligibility, payment amounts, what to expect, when to expect it, and more, visit the IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>



### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

If you are currently living abroad and have inquiries about any process of the Social Security Administration, please contact the Federal Benefits Unit located at the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica. We would like to let you know that the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador is not authorized to receive any social security applications.

You may contact the Federal Benefits Unit in the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica at: [FBU.CostaRica@ssa.gov](mailto:FBU.CostaRica@ssa.gov)



Please keep in mind that every time you send an email you must include the following information: Full name, social security number, two phone numbers, including country code where we they can reach you during the day, short description of your inquiry.

You should expect an answer in the following 15 working days. Remember that it is not usually necessary for you to travel to Costa Rica; almost every process can be done online. For more information you may visit their website: <https://cr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>



## CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD

How can you document your child's U.S. Citizenship? If you are a U.S citizen and your biological child was born in El Salvador, he or she might be eligible to receive a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA). If you meet the requirements established by the Immigration and Nationality Laws of the United States, you can obtain your child's CRBA.

To process a successful application, the U.S citizen parent (s) must:

- Establish U.S citizenship prior to the child's birth
- Prove biological relationship with the child
- Present evidence of physical presence in the United States prior to the Child's birth

To find out more, please read and follow all of the instructions at <http://bit.ly/CRBAen>



## WHAT IS A MIGRATORY MOVEMENT REPORT AND WHERE CAN I GET IT?

If you are currently starting the process to transmit citizenship to your child, you will most likely be asked for a Migratory Movement report. This document is issued by the Salvadoran Government and shows the history of your entries and exits in the country, it may be useful when filling out the item #24 on the form to transmit citizenship (DS-2029).

This document is issued by the "Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería". You can find more information on where and how to request it [here](#).





## CONSULAR REPORT OF DEATH ABROAD

When a U.S. citizen dies in El Salvador, the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador can assist the family and friends during this difficult time. Death is a time of crisis for one's family and friends no matter where it takes place. If a death occurs overseas, the experience can be even more traumatic, especially if the procedures involved are not clearly understood.

The American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit at the United States Embassy in San Salvador issues a Consular Report of Death Abroad which is an English-language document based on the information contained in the Salvadoran death certificate; it is usually needed by the family to finalize any pending legal matters in the United States such as insurance claims, pensions, or U.S. bank accounts, etc. A Consular Officer will issue twenty original Consular Reports of Death Abroad to the next of kin of the deceased U.S. Citizen, free of charge.

The ACS Unit also notifies the Social Security Administration (SSA) Regional Office in Costa Rica, and the Vital Records Office of the death, if applicable. In order to report the death of a U.S. citizen in El Salvador please send an email to [ACSSanSal@state.gov](mailto:ACSSanSal@state.gov) with the following information:

- Copy of U.S. passport of the deceased citizen
- Copy of the Salvadoran Death Certificate
- Contact information and copy of ID of the next-of-kin

We will answer your email within the next two business days and send you detailed instructions to schedule an appointment to pick up the Consular Report of Death Abroad.

For more information about the Consular Report of Death Abroad, repatriation of remains to the United States, and contact information for Funeral Homes in El Salvador, visit our website: <https://sv.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/death-of-au-s-citizen/>

The form is titled "REPORT OF DEATH OF A U.S. CITIZEN OR U.S. NON-CITIZEN NATIONAL ABROAD" and is issued by the U.S. Department of State. It contains the following sections:

- Personal Information:** Name in full, Sex, Date of Issue (month/day/year), Date (month/year) and Place of Birth, Evidence of U.S. Citizenship, Address in U.S.A., Permanent or Temporary Address Abroad, Date of death (Month, Day, Year, Minute, Hour, Year), Place of death (Name and street or Hospital/Hotel, City, Country), Cause of death (Including activity for accident - if physician, include full name and official title, if any).
- Disposition of Remains:** Disposition of the remains, Local law governing disposition of remains provides that, Disposition of the effects.
- Person or Official responsible for custody of effects and accounting therefor:** Name, ADDRESS, DATE (month-day-year) NOTIFIED.
- Traveling/boarding abroad with relatives or friends as follows:** Name, ADDRESS, DATE (month-day-year) NOTIFIED.
- Copy of this report sent to:** Name, ADDRESS, DATE (month-day-year) NOTIFIED.
- Notification or copy sent to Federal Agencies:** SSA, V.A., CBP, Other (Name Agency).
- Remarks:** (Continue on reverse if necessary)
- Signature:** Signature of official, of the United States of America.

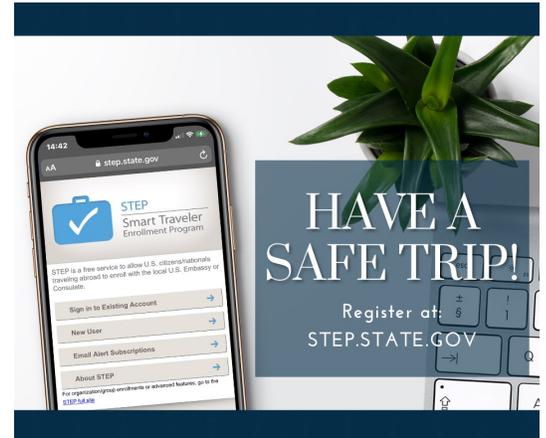


# OUR SERVICES

## REGISTER IN STEP AND TRAVEL SAFELY

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program is an easy way to ensure your safety in an emergency while traveling or residing abroad. When you register in STEP, you will receive **travel and health alerts** of the country that you are visiting. It is easy to use: just create an account, then add and remove the countries you visit according to your plans.

Don't worry! We don't spam. Be Smart and step on up to the STEP program by registering at: [www.step.state.gov](http://www.step.state.gov)



## UPCOMING CLOSURES

- **August 3, Tuesday**  
Feast of San Salvador
- **August 4, Wednesday**  
Feast of San Salvador
- **August 5, Thursday**  
Feast of San Salvador
- **August 6, Friday**  
Feast of San Salvador
- **September 6, Monday**  
Labor Day
- **September 15, Wednesday**  
Independence Day
- **October 11, Monday**  
Columbus Day
- **November 2, Tuesday**  
All Soul's Day
- **November 11, Thursday**  
Veterans Day
- **November 25, Thursday**  
Thanksgiving Day

